

means for detecting protection position information which specifies a position within said main data at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position information also being conveyed by said data medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said reproduction apparatus;

means for defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

means for executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

19 (Twice Amended). A reproduction protection method providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data medium, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting medium protection data which are also conveyed by said data medium;

detecting protection position information which specifies a position within said main data at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position information also being conveyed by said data medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to a reproduction apparatus operating on said main data;

defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

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executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

20 (Twice Amended). A data medium for transferring main data to a reproduction apparatus, to reproduce said main data by said reproduction apparatus, characterized in that:

5 said data medium further transfers medium protection data and protection position information which specifies a position within said main data at which reproduction protection is to be applied;

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said reproduction apparatus generates apparatus protection data which are specific to said reproduction apparatus;

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10 said medium protection data and apparatus protection data in combination specify a degree of restriction on said reproduction of the main data by said reproduction apparatus, and

said reproduction of the main data is executed in accordance with said degree of restriction, specified by said medium protection data and apparatus protection data transferred by said medium, and in accordance with said protection
15 position information transferred by said medium.

21 (Twice Amended). A decoding apparatus providing decoding protection, for operating on information which is transferred through a medium and comprises main data which are to be decoded and protection data, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting said protection data;

5 means for detecting protection position information which specifies a position within said main data at which to apply said decoding protection, said protection position information also being transferred by said medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said decoding apparatus;

10 means for defining a protection level based on said protection data and said apparatus protection data, in combination; and

means for executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

22 (Twice Amended). A decoding protection method providing decoding protection in a decoding apparatus, for operating on information which is transferred through a medium and comprises main data which are to be decoded and protection data, the method comprising the steps of:

5 detecting said protection data;

detecting protection position information which specifies a position within said main data at which said decoding protection is to be applied, said protection position information also being transferred by said medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said decoding
10 apparatus;

defining a protection level based on said protection data and said apparatus

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protection data, in combination, and

executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

28 (Amended). The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of
5 data is specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

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29 (Amended). The reproduction protection method according to claim 19, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user,
5 said first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

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~~30 (Amended). The data medium according to claim 20, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such~~

that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of
5 data is specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

31 (Amended). The decoding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said decoding apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data is
5 specific to a region or a country in which said decoding apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

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32 (Amended). The decoding protection method according to claim 22, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said decoding apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said
5 first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said decoding apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country

33 (New). A reproduction apparatus as recited in claim 18, wherein said means for executing reproduction of said main data operates for implementing a protection of the reproduced main data by restricting reproduction thereof in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

34 (New). A reproduction protection method as recited in claim 19, wherein said step of executing reproduction of said main data comprises the further step of implementing a protection of the reproduced main data by restricting reproduction thereof in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

sub G⁹ 35 (New). A data medium as recited in claim 20, wherein said reproduction of said main data is restricted in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

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contel 36 (New). A decoding apparatus as recited in claim 21, wherein said means for executing decoding of said main data operates for implementing a protection of the decoded main data by restricting decoding thereof in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

37 (New). A decoding protection method apparatus as recited in claim 22, wherein said step of executing decoding of said main data operates for implementing a protection of the decoded main data by restricting decoding thereof in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

Marked Up Copy of Rewritten Claims

18 (Twice Amended). A reproduction apparatus providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data medium, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting medium protection data which [are specific to said data
5 medium and] are also conveyed by said data medium;

means for detecting protection position information which specifies a position within said main data at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position information also being conveyed by said data medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data [comprising a first set of
10 data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data being specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used] which are specific to said reproduction apparatus;

15 means for defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

means for executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

19 (Twice Amended). A reproduction protection method providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data

medium, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting medium protection data which [are specific to said data medium
5 and] are also conveyed by said data medium;

detecting protection position information which specifies a position within
said main data at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection
position information also being conveyed by said data medium;

generating apparatus protection data [comprising a first set of data and a
10 second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of
said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said
user, said first set of data being specific to a region or a country in which said
reproduction apparatus is to be used] which are specific to a reproduction
apparatus operating on said main data;

15 defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said
apparatus protection data in combination; and

executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said
protection level and said protection position information.

20 (Twice Amended). A data medium for transferring main data to a
reproduction apparatus, to reproduce said main data by said reproduction
apparatus, characterized in that:

said data medium further transfers medium protection data [which are
5 specific to said data medium] and protection position information which specifies

a position within said main data at which reproduction protection is to be applied;

said reproduction apparatus generates apparatus protection data [comprising a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data being specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used, and] which are specific to said reproduction apparatus;

said medium protection data and apparatus protection data in combination specify a degree of restriction on said reproduction of the main data by said reproduction apparatus, and

said reproduction of the main data is executed in accordance with said degree of restriction, specified by said medium protection data and apparatus protection data transferred by said medium, and in accordance with said protection position information transferred by said medium.

21 (Twice Amended). A decoding apparatus providing decoding protection, for operating on information which is transferred through a [media] medium and comprises main data which are to be decoded and protection data, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting said protection data;

means for detecting protection position information which specifies a position within said main data at which to apply said decoding protection, said

protection position information also being transferred by said medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data [comprising a first set of data
10 and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a
user of said decoding apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by
said user, said first set of data being specific to a region or a country in which said
decoding apparatus is to be used] which are specific to said decoding apparatus;

means for defining a protection level based on said protection data and said
15 apparatus protection data, in combination; and

means for executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said
protection level and said protection position information.

22 (Twice Amended). A decoding protection method providing decoding
protection in a decoding apparatus, for operating on information which is
transferred through a [media] medium and comprises main data which are to be
decoded and protection data, the method comprising the steps of:

5 detecting said protection data;

detecting protection position information which specifies a position within
said main data at which said decoding protection is to be applied, said protection
position information also being transferred by said medium;

generating apparatus protection data [comprising a first set of data and a
10 second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of
said decoding apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user,

said first set of data being specific to a region or a country in which said decoding apparatus is to be used] which are specific to said decoding apparatus;

defining a protection level based on said protection data and said apparatus

15 protection data, in combination; and

executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

28 (Amended). The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of
5 data is specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

29 (Amended). The reproduction protection method according to claim 19, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user,
5 said first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

30 (Amended). The data medium according to claim 20, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of
5 data is specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

31 (Amended). The decoding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said decoding apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data is
5 specific to a region or a country in which said decoding apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

32 (Amended). The decoding protection method according to claim 22, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said decoding apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said
5 first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said decoding

apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.